(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the total area of land where these coal reserves exist;

(d) whether Government have recently formulated and scheme for undertaking mining work with regard to these reserves; and

(e) if so, the details of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As reported by Coal India Limited, out of 4.6 billion tonnes of such coal reserves, only about 1.833 billion tonnes falls under the command area of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). The balance coal reserves are under non-CIL blocks of Jharia coalfields. Out of total 9 blocks mainly Parbatpur, Mahal, Sitanala, Kapuria, Aluara, Gourigram, Pipratand-Singra, Kalyanpur, West Mohuda (South) having estimated geological reserves of about 4.6 billion tonnes, only 2 blocks *i.e.* Kapuria & Pipratand-Singra with reserves of about 1.833 billion tonnes belong to BCCL. Out of the rest 7 blocks, five blocks namely Mahal, Sitanala, Parbatpur, Gourigram and Aluara have been offered as captive blocks. Of which, Parbatpur has already been allotted to M/s Electro Steel.

(c) The total area of land for the 9 blocks is about 95.31 sq.km. and for 2 blocks under BCCL command area it is about 29 sq. km.

(d) and (e) Project Report for Kapuria is being prepared by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDI) and detailed exploration in Singra block is also being done by CMPDI.

Passport Office in Shimla

†1026. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the States that do not have any passport office till yet;

(b) whether passport office has not been established in Shimla, the capital of Himachal Pradesh, so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when a passport office would be set up in the State capital to save the people from the difficulties of going to Chandigarh and to make passport expeditiously?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and the north-eastern states apart from Assam, do not have Passport Offices.

(b) So far we have not been able to establish a Passport Office in Shimla. But a Passport Collection Centre exists there.

(c) The reason for not opening a Passport Office in Shimla is mainly due to manpower constraints.

(d) Government has decided to open Passport Office in Shimla depending upon the availability of manpower and logistic arrangements.

Russian Offer in Atomic Energy Sector

†1027. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian Premier V. Putin had made an offer to Government that if India fulfils the conditions of Nuclear Supplier Group countries, its atomic energy related requirements would continue to be fulfilled;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government in the said context, so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Two reactors of 1000 MW each are being constructed a Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu in technical cooperation with the Russian Federation. India and Russia are discussing the expansion of bilateral cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The two countries agree that the bilateral cooperation can be further expanded.

(c) and (d) India is in contact with a broad range of NSG countries, including Russia, to enable full civilian energy cooperation with India.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.